

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of the Office Action mailed on May 29, 2007.

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) as they include reference characters not mentioned in the description. Figures 2 and 3 have been corrected to remove such reference characters.

Claims 10-12 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. Claims 10-12 have been corrected accordingly, thus this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 13-18 have been cancelled. Therefore, this rejection is moot.

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0054106 to Anderson et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,678,828 to Pham et al. In view of the amendments and arguments set forth below, it is submitted that all pending claims are patentably distinct over the art of record.

The subject application is directed to a system and method for storing document images in a network file system. Identification information from a user is received as well as a user request to open a selected data storage location. The identification information is then tested to determine whether the user has privileges to initiate a secure storage operation. User security information is received corresponding to the selected data storage operation as well as secure identity information corresponding to identification of a subset of users. Data storage associated with the selected data storage location is allocated and identification information and security information is stored associatively with the selected data storage location. Each of the subset of users is notified of the user security information and the location of the selected data storage location. Document image data is received and stored in the selected data storage location. Once the data storage operation is complete, access to the selected data storage location is restricted.

Anderson is directed to an image acquisition server which transmits acquired images across a network along with header information and formatting for a user-specified destination. An administrator performs a setup of a user interface for various devices. Future routing of images to such devices will result in a prompt to users relative to information necessary to route images via that device. The Examiner relies on Pham to address a noted deficiency in the teachings of Anderson, that is, means adapted for receiving, from a user, security information associated with a selected data

storage operation. It should be noted that Pham includes no teaching relative to user specified routing of received documents as it is directed to general secure network data access.

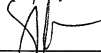
An embodiment of the subject application acknowledges situations in which selected groups of users will engage in a secure, collaborative access to certain incoming documents. By way of example, if sensitive financial information is anticipated for arrival, it would be advantageous if an authorized user could set up a list of users authorized to access such incoming documents. The authorized user could then set up access parameters, such as who is authorized, contact information for authorized users, a location of incoming documents, as well as information which will allow such authorized users to access such sensitive information once it is received. The subject embodiment allows for such setup, and communication of sufficient information to invited or authorized users to allow them to gain access to such sensitive documents. See, Specification, p. 7 and Fig. 3.

Amendment to each independent claim, claims 1, 7, and 19, has been made to render more clear the patentable distinctions over the art of record. More particularly, by virtue to the amendment to the independent claims, each claim now includes limitations wherein an authorized user sets up secure storage properties, and a notification is made to appropriate users allowing them access. This allows a mechanism for creation of secure storage for authorized access groups, with lessened overhead. Relevant users are notified without increased intervention.

As amended, it is submitted that all claims are patentably distinct over the art of record and in condition for allowance thereover. An early allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 66329/33305.

Respectfully submitted,



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